



GSI.7347 DIV

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Donald V. Smart

SERIAL NO: 09/633,837

FILED: August 7, 2000

FOR: PULSE CONTROL IN LASER SYSTEM

Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Preliminary to continuing examination, please amend the claims as follows:

1-39. (previously canceled).

40. (herein further amended): A method of operating a processor-controlled pulsed laser system comprising a laser source, [~~wherein a pre-selected pulse shape to be produced by the laser source is presettable based on known properties of a target material to be processed on a workpiece, and~~] said method comprising the steps of:

selecting a first time interval between at least two successive transmissions of pulses onto [a] the workpiece [~~is selectable independently of the pre-selected pulse shape, the method comprising:~~];

pulsing the pulsed laser system by triggering storage of energy by the laser source for a first [~~fixed, predetermined~~] period of time prior to each of a plurality of first emission periods associated with said first time interval [~~regardless of the time interval between the at least two~~]

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01 FC:1201

774.00 DA

02 FC:1202

810.00 DA